Whereas, it is with great pride and sincere admiration that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives honor treasured residents of the Show-Me State who have experienced the joys and blessings of a prosperous marriage; and

Whereas, fifty years ago on January 28, 1958, Garland Ray Strother took the hand of his beautiful bride, Constance Lee "Connie" Ruggles, as they began their commitment to a lifetime of shared love and devotion by exchanging wedding vows during a solemn ceremony officiated by the Reverend Lewis Strother, uncle of the groom, in University City, Missouri; and

Whereas, in the years since that heavenly day, Garland and Connie Strother have had the pleasure of watching their family grow to include two children, Cindy Strother and Rusty Strother and his wife, Jill; five grandchildren, Sierra, Logan, Austin, Breana, and Colton; and one great-granddaughter, Amiaya Raylee; and

Whereas, now retired, Garland Strother is known as a dedicated family man who generously provided his loved ones with a comfortable home and secure future through his successful endeavors as an Operating Engineer and a Supervisor with Fru-Con Construction Corporation; and

Whereas, a devoted wife, loving mother, and outstanding homemaker, Connie Strother offered her children boundless emotional support, guidance, and understanding which enhanced their lives in countless ways and enabled them to become responsible citizens with families of their own; and

Whereas, Garland and Connie Strother have found the road to happiness by putting all of their energy, love, and ambition into their marriage and by knowing that a successful union is built upon such strong qualities as sacrifice, dedication, and honesty; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Strother, residents of Vandalia, commemorated the glorious occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a western Caribbean Cruise with friends during January 2008:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join in extending our most hearty congratulations to Garland and Connie Strother for their tremendous success in achieving a half century of wedded bliss and in wishing them only the very best as they continue their journey walking hand-in-hand along life's path; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Mr. and Mrs. Garland Ray Strother.

Offered by

Representative Terry L. Witte District No. 10

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 650, adopted February 14, 2008.